REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed July 22, 2008 the Office noted that claims 21-23 were pending and rejected claims 21-23. Claims 21 and 22 have been amended, no claims have been canceled, claims 24-27 have been added, and, thus, in view of the foregoing claims 21-27 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Office's rejections are traversed below.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hughes, U.S. Patent No. 6,854,009. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with an argument and amendment.

Hughes discusses a network with multiple servers and multiple distributed client devices each with an operating system. At boot the client connects to one of the servers by whatever means possible and downloads a base operating system and some applications without any user accessible setup. The client may be a thin client, to the extent that there is no hard disk – but there may be flash memory. If there is not, then this ensures that the base operating system must be reloaded each time.

The Applicants have amended the claims to recite "[a] method of providing *a VPN* communication between two *or more*

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network devices of unknown network address *and each of which
loses its configuration data on power loss comprising providing a
network device without user configuration data, providing within
the network device a routine which securely contacts a remote
verification authority, and downloading from a remote
configuration authority authorized by the remote verification
authority the entire configuration data* each time the device is
initialized, *storing* the devices allocated network addresses at
the server, the server being queriable for the allocated network
addresses of the two *or more* network devices, and wherein
communications can be initiated between the two *or more* network
addresses from this data." (Emphasis added)

Support may be found, for example, in the printed
publication version of the Specification at ¶¶ 0044 and 0016; and
claim 18 as originally filed.

Hughes col. 10, line 62 through col. 11, line 8 states

> FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing in greater detail how
> software applications are configured in the appliance
> 132. **Upon power-up, the boot OS is loaded from the
> solid state disk (boot PROM) 336 into RAM 302.** The boot
> OS plays a limited role in the operation of the client.
> **The very first time the appliance starts up, it
> automatically dials up the server farm 100 (possibly
> via a telephone line and modem) and directly connects
> to the initial configuration server 204.** During the
> first session, an updated startup connection module may
> **be downloaded and flashed into the flash memory 304,** so
> that all future connections may be made by way of a
> high speed link (e.g., cable modem, satellite modem,
> DSL or the like). Details of this startup module are
> described in greater detail below with reference to
> FIG. 12.

Thus, in Hughes the entire configuration is not downloaded each

time the device is initialized. Instead, after saving the OS to

disc or flash the system is configured for the next power up.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Hughes fails

to disclose the features of amended claim 21 and the claims

dependent therefrom.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 24-27 are new. Support for claims 24-27 may be

found, for example, on page 4, line 25 through page 6, line 11 of

the Specification. The Applicants submit that no new matter has

been added by the addition of claims 24-27. The prior art fails

to disclose the configuration data is downloaded as a single

transaction and is lost when the network device loses power; and

that the configuration data remains unchanged for the duration of

the network devices powered on cycle as well as the configuration

data is only downloaded upon a power up sequence.
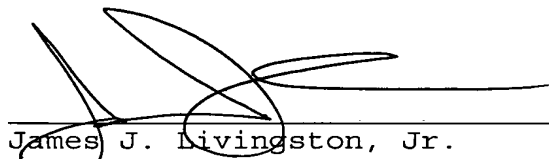

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the

requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102. It is also submitted that

claims 21-27 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted

that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the

prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for

allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this,

concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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